

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-27, 29 and 30 are pending, of which claims 1, 10, 21 and 27 are independent. By this amendment, claims 1, 5, 10, 21 and 27 are amended.

In numbered paragraph 4, pages 3-6 of the Office Action, independent claims 1, 10, 21 and 27, along with various dependent claims, are rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,959,989 (Gleeson et al.) in view of US 2004/0078469 A1 (Ishwar et al.). In numbered paragraph 5, bridging pages 6 and 7 of the Office Action, dependent claims 6, 7, 15, 16, 25 and 26 are rejected as being unpatentable over the Gleeson et al. patent in view of the Ishwar et al. publication, and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,269,076 (Shamir et al.). In numbered paragraph 6, page 7 of the Office Action, dependent claim 12 is rejected as being unpatentable over the Gleeson et al. patent in view of the Ishwar et al. publication, and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,026,442 (Lewis et al.). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants have disclosed a method and system for resolving network connectivity (e.g., abstract). For example, a system is disclosed for resolving network connectivity as shown in FIG. 2, wherein such a system includes memory 202 and a processor 204 (e.g., paragraph [0025]). Applicants have further disclosed that such a processor also includes logic configured to obtain, from the memory 202, a first identifier associated with the portion of the network (e.g., paragraph [0026]). The processor 204 also includes logic configured to assign a second identifier to the portion of the network unique to other portions of the network. The second identifier (e.g., domain identifier Domain_5) assigned to the VLAN 210 is different than other

domain identifiers (e.g., Domain_1) assigned to other VLAN broadcast domains 214 in the network arrangement (e.g., paragraph [0027]). The processor 204 also includes logic configured to modify the first identifier associated with the portion of the network to include the second identifier (e.g., paragraph [0028]).

The foregoing features are broadly encompassed by independent claim 1 which recites "[a] method for resolving network connectivity, the method comprising: determining whether a first device is included in a portion of a network in which the first device can receive information directed to all devices included within the portion of the network; obtaining a first identifier associated with the portion of the network; assigning a second identifier to the portion of the network based on a domain identifier unique to other portions of the network; modifying the first identifier associated with the portion of the network to include the second identifier; and associating the modified first identifier with the first device and the portion of the network." The applied references would not have rendered obvious at least, among other claimed features, assigning a second identifier to the portion of the network based on a domain identifier unique to other portions of the network; modifying the first identifier associated with the portion of the network to include the second identifier; and associating the modified first identifier with the first device and the portion of the network, as recited in claim 1, and as similarly recited in independent claims 10, 21 and 27.

As relied upon by the Examiner, the Gleeson et al. patent discloses intermediate devices 220-223 capable of establishing segmented virtual local area networks (VLANs) by associating various groups of LANs 204-214 (col. 8, lines 4-18). But the Gleeson et al. patent is silent as to assigning a second identifier to a

portion of the network based on a domain identifier unique to other portions of the network as Applicants have claimed. Rather, the Gleeson et al. patent merely discloses VLAN associations that can have the same designation, e.g., red (col. 8, lines 14-16).

Ishwar et al. publication does not cure the deficiencies of the Gleeson et al. patent. Rather, the Ishwar et al. publication as relied upon by the Examiner merely discloses a customer-specific VLAN that is identified by a combination of a VLAN ID and a customer ID as exemplified in Fig. 2 (paragraph [0026]).

At least for these reason, the Ishwar et al. publication, when considered individually on in the combination with Gleeson et al. patent as the Examiner has suggested, would not have taught or suggested at least, among other claimed features, assigning a second identifier to the portion of the network based on a domain identifier unique to other portions of the network; modifying the first identifier associated with the portion of the network to include the second identifier; and associating the modified first identifier with the first device and the portion of the network, as recited in claim 1, and as similarly recited in independent claims 10, 21 and 27.

The Shamir et al. patent and the Lewis et al. patent do not cure the deficiencies of the Gleeson et al. patent and the Ishwar et al. publication. Rather, the Shamir et al. patent was applied by the Examiner for its mention of a network management system (NMS) using a management information base (MIB) (col. 8, lines 9 and 10); and the Lewis et al. patent was applied by the Examiner for its disclosure of a display unit 114 connected to a processor 108 for graphics display (col. 4, lines 17-20) to reject various dependent features.

Accordingly, independent claims 1, 10, 21 and 27 are allowable over the applied references. The remaining claims depend from the respective independent claim and recite additional advantageous features which further distinguish over the documents relied upon by the Examiner. As such, the present application is considered in condition for allowance.

All rejections and objections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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